

**RESOURCES for AGING**  
**November 21, 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 16)**

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on the e-newsletter distribution list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed at [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net).

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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**AGING NETWORK NEWS**  
**Michigan to Conduct Major Elder Abuse Training Initiative**

OSA in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH), Michigan State University (MSU) and BEAM are spearheading a major training effort in Michigan to reduce the potential for vulnerable adult abuse and neglect.

Funded through a \$1.5 million grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), this initiative will train 11,000 direct care workers across the state who care for vulnerable adults of all ages. The training and materials will be provided at no cost.

The goal is to reduce abuse by facilitating a change in the culture of caring within long-term care settings. The project aims to train all nurse aides, home care aides, home health aids, hospice workers, dietary workers, personal care attendants, and other paraprofessionals in the state who have direct contact with adults needing health care.

The sponsoring partners of the project have been working on developing curriculum materials, as well as making preparations for publicizing the initiative. A pilot test of the curriculum was completed last month. Assisting with curriculum development are Citizens for Better Care (CBC) and the Paraprofessional Health Care Institute (PHI).

Training sessions will include an introduction to person-centered care and how it relates to abuse prevention; ideas for transforming institutions and organizations from being task-focused and treatment oriented to being relationship-focused and care-oriented; and suggestions on preventing abuse from occurring by co-workers and supervisors.

The training will enable direct care workers to recognize situations and “triggers” that could lead to abuse; identify potential situations of abuse and neglect; learn and use tools that aid in preventing potential abuse and neglect; and identify designated avenues for reporting suspected abuse and neglect.

The one-day training sessions will begin next spring, and will be conducted in all parts of the state. Michigan is one of three states to receive funding from CMS to train direct care workers under a national criminal background check pilot program.

For more information, contact **Lauren Swanson** at OSA (517/373-0049) or e-mail her at [swansonla@michigan.gov](mailto:swansonla@michigan.gov).

### **CSA Invites Applications for SAC Membership**

The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) announces that 2006 Applications for Membership in the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) are now available.

SAC is a 40-member council appointed by CSA to provide advice and recommendations to CSA and OSA. It meets six times/year in Lansing, and members are reimbursed for travel. A majority of the members are age 60 or older.

CSA requests that SAC research particular topics or charges. In recent years, SAC has studied and provided advice and recommendations on health promotion, elder-friendly communities, and information and assistance services.

SAC has 20 vacancies each year. New members are selected according to several criteria including their knowledge and personal involvement in aging issues, and geographic and demographic distribution.

Applications are now being accepted through **February 3, 2006** for terms beginning **June, 2006**. To download a SAC application, or to access other useful information about SAC, go to [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net).

For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at [steiners@michigan.gov](mailto:steiners@michigan.gov).

### **AAA Conducts Successful SDAP**

Area Agency on Aging 1-B sponsors a Senior Driving Awareness Program (SDAP) that has reached more than 600 people during the past year.

It claims a number of successes that include: designing, printing and distributing brochures on senior adult driving to 35 Secretary of State Branch Offices; expanding its program coverage to Livingston County; holding monthly meetings at the Brighton, Hartland and Howell Senior Centers; providing one-on-one assistance via telephone and the Internet (at [www.aaa1b.com](http://www.aaa1b.com)).

Of the 600 people the SDAP has reached in the past year, 73 percent are female; 73 percent are age 71-85; 57 percent indicate they have changed their driving habits as a result of the program; and 47 percent have used public transit as a direct result of participating in the program.

The SDAP is hoping to become a pilot site for a Mobility Resource and Support Service Center. These centers, originally described in the 1999 Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOGP) Elderly Mobility and Safety Report, would offer a centralized source of information, counseling, education and assistance for senior mobility issues. They also would provide an 800 toll-free number and a website for senior adults and their caregivers. It is proposed that these centers be housed at Area Agency on Aging

(AAA) offices. For more information, call 248/262-9217 or e-mail to [tabbatemarzolf@aaa1b.com](mailto:tabbatemarzolf@aaa1b.com).

### **CoA Offers Family Caregiver Training**

The Gratiot County Commission on Aging (CoA) offers an ongoing training for caregivers. The CoA uses public service announcements in local newspapers to publicize the program, and interested individuals call the CoA to make an appointment. CoA staff then visit their homes, or they go to the CoA for a caregiver assessment.

Assessments of the family caregivers are done individually by CoA staff to identify and address specific, personalized needs. Caregivers also receive training on creating a healthy and safe home care environment; safe wheelchair use; how to care for someone on bed rest; infection control; fire safety; fall prevention; nutrition; reducing caregiver stress; and locating resource centers.

The goals of the program are to (1) help family members who are caring for older loved ones who are ill or who have disabilities; (2) provide timely, practical education on physical and emotional care; (3) help caregivers take care of themselves in order to preserve their ability to care for loved ones; and (4) help them manage both daily situations and look at long range decisions.

Nearly two-thirds of the funding comes from a county millage, and the rest from the Region VII Area Agency on Aging (AAA-7). For more information, call **Jean McNab** at the CoA (989/875-5246) or e-mail her at [gcco@co.gratiot.mi.us](mailto:gcco@co.gratiot.mi.us).

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### **OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS**

#### **State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)**

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. **December 15** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at [steiners@michigan.gov](mailto:steiners@michigan.gov).

#### **OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors**

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **January 10, 2006** at a location to be determined. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at [bowlinj1@michigan.gov](mailto:bowlinj1@michigan.gov), or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at [ablan@iserv.net](mailto:ablan@iserv.net).

#### **Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)**

The **December 16** meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **January 20, 2006** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at [albrechtc@michigan.gov](mailto:albrechtc@michigan.gov)

## State Plan Hearings

The next state plan public hearing will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 17, 2006** at ACCESS in **Dearborn**.

To date, OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) have conducted two public hearings (**October 21** at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant** and **November 18** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**) and will conduct four more hearings to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens.

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public hearings to express their opinions to policy makers.

Four more public hearings will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

**March 17, 2006** at ACCESS in **Dearborn**

**March 21, 2006** at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**

**March 29, 2006** at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**

**May 19, 2006** at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

Verbal comments by interested individuals at public hearings are welcome. Written comments also may be submitted by **May 20, 2006** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website ([www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net)) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

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## EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

**Raising Funds from National Funders: A Briefing on 100 Top National Foundations**, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association, the Accounting Aid Society, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Detroit Executive Service Corps (DESC) **November 29** at the Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division in **Southfield**. For more information or to register, go to [www.mnaonline.org/workshops.asp](http://www.mnaonline.org/workshops.asp) or call 517/492-2400.

**Raising Funds from National Funders: A Briefing on 100 Top National Foundations**, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association, Capital Area United Way, the Capital Region Community Foundation, and the City of Lansing **November 30** at the Foster Community Center in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to [www.mnaonline.org/workshops.asp](http://www.mnaonline.org/workshops.asp) or call 517/492-2400.

**Call for Proposals: Sixth Annual National Aging and Law Conference**, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and others, April 19-23 at the Double Tree Hotel in **Arlington, VA**. The deadline for submitting workshop and roundtable proposals is **December 1**. For more information, go to [www.aarp.org/nltp](http://www.aarp.org/nltp) or call 202/434-2197.

**Call for Courses: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School of Gerontology**, sponsored by the

South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging August 20-25, 2006 to provide education and training for professionals who work with the aging population and others interested in aging issues at Springmaid Beach, **Myrtle Beach, SC**. The lodging and meal costs of course presenters, as well as limited travel costs will be covered. The deadline for submitting course proposals is **December 7**. For more information, call 803/734-9878 or e-mail to [halljen@aging.sc.gov](mailto:halljen@aging.sc.gov).

**Michigan Health Information Network (MHIN) Inaugural Stakeholder Meeting**, sponsored by CyberMichigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH), and the Michigan Department of Information and Technology **December 14** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in **East Lansing**. For more information or to register free, go to [www.regonline.com/84964](http://www.regonline.com/84964) or call 734/302-4755. See also the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

**The 2006 Michigan Accord**, a program about the dynamic impact that cultural change has on health care workers and consumers sponsored by the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the State of Michigan (MPRO) and Bringing the Eden Alternative to Michigan (BEAM) **January 11, 2006** at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in **Bath**. For more information, go to [www.mpro.org/michiganaccord](http://www.mpro.org/michiganaccord) or call 248/465-7332. See also the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

**Call for Abstracts: Annual Research Meeting 2006** (the premier forum for health services research), sponsored by Academy Health June 25-27, 2006 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in **Seattle, WA**. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **January 13, 2006**. For more information, go to [www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts](http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts).

**Call for Presenters: 2006 National Aging and Disability I&R/A Symposium**, sponsored by the National Aging I&R Support Center and the National State Units on Aging (NASUA) to be held in conjunction with the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRA) Training and Education Conference June 4-7 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee in **Milwaukee, WI**. Priority will be given to those who propose sessions by **January 13, 2006**. For more information go to [www.nasua.org/informationandreferral](http://www.nasua.org/informationandreferral), call 202/898-2578 or e-mail to [glink@nasua.org](mailto:glink@nasua.org).

**Call for Presentations: The Third Eden Alternative International Conference**, entitled "The Many Faces of Eden" sponsored by The Eden Alternative and Eden of OZ (Australia and New Zealand) June 7-9, 2006 at the Cairns International Hotel in **Cairns, Queensland, Australia**. The deadline for submitting proposals is **January 15, 2006**. For more information, go to [www.edenalt.com](http://www.edenalt.com) or call 512/245-8234.

**Health Action 2006 Conference**, sponsored by Families USA **January 26-28, 2006** at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org), call 202/628-3030 or e-mail to [mdelaney@familiesusa.org](mailto:mdelaney@familiesusa.org).

**Michigan Nonprofit Super Conference 2006**, entitled "New Directions in Nonprofit Excellence, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association **May 2-3, 2006** at the Sheraton Detroit Novi in **Novi**. For more information, go to [www.mnaonline.org](http://www.mnaonline.org) or call 517/492-2400.



**Partnering in Care: The Seventh Dr. Richard Seyfarth Schreiber Memorial Conference**, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **May 16, 2006** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in **Kalamazoo**. For more information go to [www.alzmigreatlakes.org](http://www.alzmigreatlakes.org) or call 269/387-4174.

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## **MICHIGAN CONFERENCES**

**7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference**, entitled "Learning, Laughing and Caring" sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2006** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to [j.mendez@wayne.edu](mailto:j.mendez@wayne.edu).

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## **MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS**

**Medicare Part D Plan Analysis: Issues for People in the Community, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living**, an online seminar sponsored by the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. **November 29** on the **Internet**. For more information, go to [www.medicareadvocacy.org](http://www.medicareadvocacy.org) or call toll-free 860/456-7790.

**Running for Office Training**, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **January 20-21, 2006** at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr) or call 517/373-2884.

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## **MICHIGAN FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS**

The following information about for-profit training events is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. OSA does not receive any re-numeration for providing this information.

**How to Excel at Managing and Supervising People**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 1-2** in **Troy**; **December 8-9** in **Jackson**; and **February 21-22, 2006** in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 2** in **Farmington Hills** and **January 18** in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 5** in **Marquette**; **December 6** in **Traverse City**; **December 7** in **Grand Rapids**; and **December 8** in **Flint**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Fundamentals of Successful Project Management**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 5-6** in **Saginaw**; **February 27-28, 2006** in **Ann Arbor**; and **March 1-2, 2006** in **Troy**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**The Complete Guide to Poised and Powerful Public Speaking**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 14** in **Troy** and **December 15** in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Leadership Development and Teambuilding**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 15** in **Jackson** and **December 16** in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call 800/873-7545.

**The Managers and Supervisors Conference**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 16** in **Saginaw**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**How to Become a Better Communicator**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 16** in **Lansing**; **January 24, 2006** in **Dearborn**; **January 25, 2006** in **Farmington Hills**; **February 23, 2006** in **Ann Arbor**; **March 16, 2006** in **Kalamazoo**; and **February 24** in **Troy**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call 800/873-7545.

**Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 9, 2006** in **Grand Rapids**; **January 10, 2006** in **Dearborn**; **January 11** in **Farmington Hills**; **January 12, 2006** in **Ann Arbor**; **January 13** in **Flint**; **February 6** in **Saginaw**; **February 7, 2006** in **Jackson**; **March 22** in **Lansing**; **March 23** in **Traverse City**; and **March 24** in **Sault Ste. Marie**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**How to Build Powerful Powerpoint Presentations**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 17** in **Farmington Hills**; **January 18** in **Dearborn**; **January 19, 2006** in **Grand Rapids**; **February 13** in **Troy**; **February 14** in **Ann Arbor**; and **March 24** in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Excelling as a Highly Effective Team Leader**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **January 23-24, 2006** in **Saginaw** and **January 25-26-3005** in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Coaching and Teambuilding Skills for Managers and Supervisors**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 16, 2006** in **Traverse City**; **March 20** in **Grand Rapids**; **March 21, 2006** in **Flint**; **March 22, 2006** in **Troy**; and **March 23, 2006** in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Business (and Agency) Writing and Grammar Skills Made Easy and Fun**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **February 28-March 1, 2006** in **Farmington Hills**; **March 2-3, 2006** in **Dearborn**; and **March 9-10, 2006** in **Flint**. For more information, to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call 800/873-7545.



**Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **March 7** in **Sault Ste. Marie**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Discovering the Secrets of Microsoft Access**, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **March 7-9, 2006** in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, go to [skillpath.com](http://skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

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## OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Michigan Elder Friendly State Assembly**, sponsored by the Michigan Vital Aging Think Tank, will be held **November 29** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/432-8740 or e-mail to [mcconaul@msu.edu](mailto:mcconaul@msu.edu). See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS section of this issue (above).

**Grandparent Caregiving and Hypertension**, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 2** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to [www.iog.wayne.edu](http://www.iog.wayne.edu) or call 313/577-2297.

**Understanding Alzheimer's**, an orientation program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **December 14** at the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to [www.alzmigreatlakes.org](http://www.alzmigreatlakes.org) or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

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## CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

**Celebrate Direct-Care Workers**, a conference sponsored by Pioneer Alliance and the Direct Care Alliance **November 30-December 2** at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to [www.celebratedirectcareworkers.org](http://www.celebratedirectcareworkers.org) or call 202/223-8355, ext. 109.

**2005 National Triad Training Symposium**, sponsored by the National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI) **December 5-8** at the Bayview Resort & Spa at the Grand Casino in **Biloxi, MS**. For more information, go to [www.nationaltriad.org](http://www.nationaltriad.org) or call toll-free 800/424-7827.

**Governor's Conference on Aging**, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging **December 7-9** at the Marriott Downtown Chicago in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, call 217/785-3377.

**National Native American Conference**, sponsored by the US Administration for Children and Families **December 7-9** at the Palm Springs Convention Center in **Palm Springs, CA**. For more information, go to [www.namsinc.org/acfconference](http://www.namsinc.org/acfconference) or call toll-free 800/416-6204.

**2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA)**, entitled “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action” conducted by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 11-14** in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov).

**Guardianship Mediation Training**, sponsored by the Stetson University College of Law **January 9-14, 2006** at the College of Law in **Gulfport, FL**. For more information, go to [www.law.stetson.edu/cle](http://www.law.stetson.edu/cle) or call 813/228-0226.

**Spiritual Assessment**, an all-day seminar sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes to explain how spiritual assessment can be used as a tool and why it is needed **January 19, 2006** at the Claremont Manor Retirement Community in **Claremont, CA** and **January 20, 2006** at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in **Chula Vista, CA**. For more information, go to [www.spiritualityandaging.org](http://www.spiritualityandaging.org) or call 714/239-6267.

**World Parkinson Congress**, sponsored by the World Parkinson Congress and the National Institutes of Health **February 22-26, 2006** at the Washington Convention Center in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.worldpdcongress.org](http://www.worldpdcongress.org) or call 972/395-1119.

**2006 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day**, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 27-28, 2006** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).

**2006 Joint Conference**, entitled “Invest in Aging: Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves” co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19, 2006** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to [www.agingconference.org](http://www.agingconference.org) or call 800/537-9728, ext. 9675.

**Tools for Spiritual Care**, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29, 2006** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30, 2006** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to [www.spiritualityandaging.org](http://www.spiritualityandaging.org) or call 714/239-6267.

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**FEDERAL REGISTER**  
(November 7-18)

**CMS Adopts Standards for Electronic Prescription Drug Program**

See the Federal Register dated **November 7** (Vol. 70, No. 214). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Rules.” This final rule by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **January 1, 2006** adopts standards for an electronic prescription drug program under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA). These standards will be the first set of final uniform standards for the the electronic prescription drug program, and represent the first step in an incremental approach to adopting final foundation standards that are consistent with the MMA objectives of patient safety, quality of care, and efficiencies

and cost savings in the delivery of care. The MMA requires that the electronic transmission of prescriptions and certain other information for covered Part D drugs prescribed for Part D eligible individuals comply with final uniform standards to be adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary. For more information, call 410/786-0273.

### **DOT Issues RFP for National TA Center for Senior Transportation**

See the Federal Register dated **November 7** (Vol. 70, No. 214). Go to “Federal Transit Administration” and see “Notices, Grants.” This notice from the Federal Transit Administration of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) is a request for proposals (RFP) from national nonprofit organizations for a cooperative agreement to develop and implement a National Technical Assistance (TA) Center for Senior Transportation (NTACST). Grant applications must be submitted electronically or in hard copy by **December 22**. The major goal of the NTACST will be to assist local communities and states in the expansion and provision of transportation services for senior adults. The grant will total \$6 million over five years under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act. The NTACST, in consultation with the Federal Transit Administration, will then award senior transportation demonstration grants to local transportation organizations, state agencies, units of local government, and nonprofit organizations. For more information, call 202/366-1663

### **President Proclaims November as National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month**

See the Federal Register dated **November 7** (Vol. 70, No. 214). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President designates **November** as National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month, 2005. Approximately 4.5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer’s Disease. This disease gradually destroys parts of the brain that control memory, learning, communication and reason. As it progresses, individuals may experience changes in behavior and personality, leading to severely impaired cognitive abilities and the need for full-time care and assistance. This month will be an opportunity to recognize the strength of family members, doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who provide care for those living with this devastating disease. It also will reaffirm our commitment to improve treatment and prevention, and enhance quality of life for Alzheimer’s Disease victims.

### **President Proclaims November as National Family Caregivers Month**

See the Federal Register dated **November 7** (Vol. 70, No. 214). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President designates **November** as National Family Caregivers Month, 2005. Every November, this month is observed to give thanks for the selfless service of family caregivers on behalf of their loved ones in need. They provide most of the homecare services in our country, and work hard to meet the emotional and physical needs of family members and friends. Their tireless devotion brings comfort and peace to those who are chronically ill or disabled. The National Family Caregiver Support Program, as well as local partnerships between local agencies, faith-based groups, and community and tribal organizations, offer family caregivers important information, counseling,

training, respite care, and support services. Everyday family caregivers sacrifice their own needs to offer their loved ones the opportunity to live with dignity and independence in family surroundings.

### **CMS Provides Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update**

See the Federal Register dated **November 9** (Vol. 70, No. 216). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Rules, Medicare.” This final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **January 1, 2006**, gives an update to the 60-day national episode rates, and the national per-visit amounts under the Medicare prospective payment system for home health agencies. This final rule is the first update of the home health prospective payment system rates that uses the revised area labor market Metropolitan Statistical Area designations for calendar year 2006. In implementing the new area labor market designations, we are allowing for a one-year transition period. This transition consists of a blend of 50 percent of the new area labor market designations’ wage index and 50 percent of the previous area labor market designations’ wage index. In addition, CMS is revising the fixed dollar loss ratio which is used in the calculation of outlier payments. This final rule gives updated rates and amounts for all Michigan counties.

### **FTA Issues RFP for Elders and Disabilities Pilot Program**

See the Federal Register dated **November 14** (Vol. 70, No. 218). Go to “Federal Transit Administration” and see “Notices, Grants.” This notice from the Federal Transit Administration of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) is a request for proposals (RFP) for the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Pilot Program. The RFP is to request proposals from states that would like to use as portion of their Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds for operating expenses. It is authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act. This act establishes a pilot program that allows seven states to use not more than 33 percent of their 2006-2009 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program Annual Apportionments for operating costs that are associated with transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. Four of the seven states are Wisconsin, Alaska, Minnesota and Oregon. Three other states will be selected to participate in the pilot program from among the proposals submitted in response to this RFP. All states wishing to use not more than 33 percent of the annual Section 5310 apportionments for operating expenses, including the four states named in the legislation, need to submit a proposal. The deadline for grant applications is **December 14**. For more information, call 202/366-2053 or e-mail to [Cheryl.oliver@fta.dot.gov](mailto:Cheryl.oliver@fta.dot.gov).

### **PCPFS Seeks Potential Partners for Physical Fitness and Sports Programs**

See the Federal Register dated **November 14** (Vol. 70, No. 218). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.” This notice from the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) requests proposals for the establishment of partnerships during 2006 involving the PCPFS and non-federal public and private sector organizations. The purpose will be for the PCPFS and its partners to work together to develop, implement and promote physical activity, fitness and sports to all Americans in their communities. The year

2006 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PCPFS. However, this partnership initiative is not a grant or contract award program. Any partnership formed between the PCPFS and an outside organization will be a voluntary collaboration. Each partner will be responsible for providing the resources necessary to carry out its own specified activities of mutual interest contained in the organization's proposal. Organizations have until **June 1, 2006** to submit a proposal to participate. For more information, call 202/690-5187 or e-mail to [mjohnson@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:mjohnson@osophs.dhhs.gov).

### **WHCoA Policy Committee Conducts Conference Call Meeting**

See the Federal Register dated **November 17** (Vol. 70, No. 221). Go to "Aging Administration" and see "Meetings." This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) announced that the the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) would be conducting a conference call the same day on **November 17** to finalize the resolutions and other items related to the 2005 WHCoA. The conference call was open to the public, with call-ins limited to the number of telephone lines available. For more information, call 301/443-2887 or e-mail to [kim.butcher@whcoa.gov](mailto:kim.butcher@whcoa.gov).

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### **LEGISLATION**

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov) (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website ([www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, e-mail comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at [osadirector@michigan.gov](mailto:osadirector@michigan.gov), or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

### **New House Bills** (November 7-18)

#### **House Bill (HB) 5410 (2005)**

Insurance; health plans; limited benefits policy; exclude state mandated benefits. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Edward Gaffney** (R-Grosse Pointe Farms) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 11-8-05.

**House Bill (HB) 5417 (2005)**

Insurance; health care corporations; limited benefits certificates; exclude state mandated benefits. Amends Public Act (PA) 350 of 1980. Sponsored by **Rep. Edward Gaffney** (R-Grosse Pointe Farms) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 11-9-05.

**New Senate Bills**

(November 7-18)

**Senate Bill (SB) 880 (2005)**

Insurance; annuities; senior protection in annuity transactions; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom** (R-Norton Shores) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions 11-9-05.

**Bills that have Moved**

(Since August 1)

See Changes (since November 7) to **House Bill (HB) 4670** and **House Bill (HB) 5375**.

**House Bill (HB) 4606 (2005)**

The bill would amend the Public Health Code. Currently the code prohibits a health care facility (i.e., a hospital or nursing home) from giving a copy of a patient's or resident's medical record to a third party without prior authorization from the patient or resident. The bill would retain this restriction on the release of a person's medical information except as otherwise permitted or required under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). The Public Health Code also allows a patient or resident to refuse the release of personal and medical records to a person outside the health facility or agency except as required because of a transfer to another health care facility or as required by law or third party payment contract. The bill would allow the release of these records as permitted or required under HIPPA. Furthermore, the Public Health Code entitles a patient or resident to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of his or her own medical record. The bill would specify that this would be done in accordance with the Medical Records Access Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 10-17-05 and 10-24-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-25-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-26-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

**House Bill (HB) 4670 (2005)**

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to create a special volunteer license for retired MDs and DOs who wish to provide medical care for the indigent and needy or in medically underserved areas of the state on a volunteer basis. Under the bill, a physician would be considered retired from practice if he or she had intended to stop engaging in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery for remuneration when the license expired. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others. Referred to the House Committee on House Policy 4-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 5-23-05. House Substitute Bill adopted 11-10-05. Placed on third reading 11-10-05.



**House Bill (HB) 4751 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act, which deals with the Medicaid program, to allow Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive services related to care (e.g., assisted living) provided in an adult foster care facility licensed under the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act if certain conditions are met. The Michigan Department of Community Services (DCH) would be required to seek a waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide adult foster care-related services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by Rep. **Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Family and Children Services 5-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-17-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

**House Bill (HB) 4773 (2005)**

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by Rep. **Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

**House Bill (HB) 4789 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of “dining assistants” by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse’s assessment of the resident and that resident’s most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

**House Bill (HB) 4792 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Community Health (DCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 10 business days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the survey report, or within 24 hours after receiving notice that the department has approved a nursing home’s plan of correction, the nursing home would have to post the report in a conspicuous place in the home for public review. Within 30 days after the report or correction plan is posted, the nursing home would have to notify its residents it had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and that a summary was available through the Internet or on the DCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident’s family, or a designated representative. If the survey report or plan of correction includes an immediate jeopardy citation, the nursing home would be required to include a description of the citation and a description of how the situation was corrected. If the department issues a notice of an immediate jeopardy situation to a nursing home, then

the nursing home would be required to post the notice, with the nursing home's plan to rectify the situation, immediately after the removal of the immediate jeopardy situation. The notice would have to be placed in a conspicuous place for public view in the nursing home for not less than seven days. If the immediate jeopardy situation results in serious injury, or a change in the health status of a resident or residents within the nursing home, the home would be required to immediately notify the resident's family, or a designated representative, of the immediate jeopardy situation. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

#### **House Bill (HB) 4811 (2005)**

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

#### **House Bill (HB) 5071 (2005)**

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by **Rep. Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

#### **House Bill (HB) 5081 (2005)**

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a "paper mark." Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

#### **House Bill (HB) 5139 (2005)**

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. Tie barred with HB 4773 (2005). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

**House Bill (HB) 5183 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who provides direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse policy, or a copy of that policy if the facility requires employees to submit to substance screening or abuse testing, whether random or otherwise, as a condition of employment. The notice would be provided upon hiring. If a notice of the policy is provided in lieu of a copy, the notice will contain the following: (a) Circumstances under which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Procedures for challenging the accuracy of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Analysis (HFA) 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

**House Bill (HB) 5325 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a hospital, during flu season, to inform each elderly person admitted to the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more that the influenza vaccine is available. This would apply unless a flu vaccine shortage has been declared, causing a hospital to have an inadequate supply in stock. If an elderly person requests to be vaccinated, and a physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner determines that the vaccine is in the patient's best interest, the hospital would have to administer the vaccination to the elderly person before he or she is discharged, and document the vaccination in the patient's medical record. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-18-02. Referred with recommendation without amendment(s) 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

**House Bill (HB) 5375 (2005)**

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to specify that a physician who provides medical care under a special volunteer license, granted under provisions of House Bill 4670, would not be liable in a civil action for personal injury or death that was proximately caused by the professional negligence or malpractice of the physician in providing the care. Civil immunity would only apply if the care was provided at a health facility or agency that provided at least 75 percent of its care annually to medically indigent individuals, and the physician did not receive, and did not intend to receive, compensation for providing the care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 10-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 11-07-05. Reported with recommendation without amendments 11-9-05. Placed on third reading 11-10-05.

**Senate Bill (SB) 267 (2005)**

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments.

Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report 9-20-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05. For final disposition of budget, see House Bill (HB) 4831, now Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 334 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 712 (2005)**

This bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to allow recreational card playing at nonresidential senior centers. Currently Chapter 44 of the code, which regulates gambling, does not apply to card playing at senior citizen housing facilities. The bill would extend that exemption to senior centers that are not housing facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 8-31-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 10-19-05 and 11-1-05. Substitute Bill concurred in by the Senate 11-1-05. Passed by the Senate 11-3-05. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 11-3-05.

### **2005 Public Acts**

#### **House Bill (HB) 4188 (2005)**

##### **Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005**

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 4434 (2005)****Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2005)****Public Act (PA) 73 (2005)**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred to HB 4434. It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 4405 (2005)****Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 4436 (2005)****Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005**

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Senate Bill (SB) 348 (2005)****Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005**

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill

eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R- Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Senate Bill (SB) 271 (2005)**

**Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005**

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 4831 (2005)**

**Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005**

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 4996 (2005)**

**Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005**

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for “dentally underserved” patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**House Bill (HB) 5055 (2005)**

**Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005**

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State, and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

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**OTHER RESOURCES**

**MPRO and BEAM Sponsor Event for Health Care Workers and Consumers**



The Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the State of Michigan (MPRO) and Bringing the Eden Alternative to Michigan (BEAM) will co-sponsor an event **January 11, 2006** at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in **Bath** that will highlight the dynamic impact that cultural change has had on health care workers and consumers.

Called The 2006 Michigan Accord, it will feature a keynote address by **William Thomas**, the founder of the Eden Alternative and author of Life Worth Living and Learning from Hannah. He also has originated an innovative departure from traditional long-term care in nursing homes called Green Houses.

Green Houses give elder residents a place to receive 24-hour assistance and support to meet long-term care needs, but without long-term care services becoming the focus of their existence. Rather, quality of life is the focus. Providing a positive and enriching life for residents in a small, family setting is the primary goal. Two green houses have been built in Michigan, in **Powers** and **Redford**.

The 2006 Michigan Accord also is designed to enhance business practices and relationships, and demonstrate how person-centered care improves quality of life (caring for people instead of treating symptoms). Participants will learn about the principles of person-centered care, and how to implement these principles in the workplace

For more information, go to [www.mpro.org/michiganaccord](http://www.mpro.org/michiganaccord) or call 248/465-7332. See also the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

### **Meeting Scheduled to Inaugurate the Michigan Health Information Network**

Stakeholders are invited to attend the inaugural meeting the Michigan Health Information Network (MHIN) **December 14** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in **East Lansing**.

Sponsored by CyberMichigan in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT), this will be the first all-stakeholder event designed to facilitate discussion, and focus on the creation of a statewide information network in Michigan to improve quality and safety, reduce costs, and provide better access to healthcare for consumers across the state.

The sharing of healthcare information can involve electronic patient care records, monitoring systems, and movement of healthcare information across organizational boundaries. The inaugural meeting will be the first statewide discussion about how these efforts can be linked together to realize savings and improve the quality of healthcare.

The inaugural meeting will provide an overview of Michigan and national perspectives and efforts currently underway to build healthcare technology infrastructure and develop health information exchange initiatives. It also will provide an opportunity to interact with public and private healthcare leaders. In addition, it will facilitate work groups to make recommendations for sustainable progress with the creation of MHIN.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Office for the Advancement of

Telehealth of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration. Registration is free. For more information or to register, go to [www.regonline.com/84964](http://www.regonline.com/84964) or call 734/302-4755.

### **Geriatrics Center Requests Nominations for 2006 Memorial Award**

The University of Michigan (U of M) Geriatrics Center requests nominations for the 2006 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award. The award was established in 1991 to recognize outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in enhancing community-based geriatrics education in the State of Michigan.

Eligibility is open to any person in Michigan, and nominations must be received by **January 27, 2006**. Award criteria include professional excellence, personal integrity, and dedication to enhancing educational programming in geriatrics, as evidenced in the nominee's professional and/or volunteer experience.

Award recipients receive a certificate and \$300 honorarium. For more information, call 734/764-2263.

### **NIH Offers Free Monthly Newsletter**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides a free monthly newsletter entitled NIH News in Health. It features practical health news and tips based on the latest NIH research.

Senior adults and aging network service providers will find this health information useful. Past issues have featured articles about lower back pain, the promise of personalized medicine, and why people often eat more than they think they are eating.

The information provided is not copyrighted, and readers can download graphics and copy text for printing. Items also can be duplicated without permission used by other publications. To receive e-mail alerts when issues are posted online, send an e-mail to [listserv@list.nih.gov](mailto:listserv@list.nih.gov) with a message that says, "subscribe nihnewsinhealth."

For more information, call 301/496-0019 or e-mail to [weinh@od.nih.gov](mailto:weinh@od.nih.gov).

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### **WEBSITES**

[www.apsnetwork.org](http://www.apsnetwork.org) is the website of the National Adult Protective Services Association to provide help and hope to America's vulnerable adults, and a forum for Adult Protective Services (APS) program administrators and staff to share information, solve problems, and improve the quality of services for victims of elder and vulnerable adult abuse.

[www.edenalt.com](http://www.edenalt.com) is the website of the Eden Alternative that creates habitats for people who live and work in long-term care facilities. It explains what the Eden Alternative is, as well as other information such as its training schedule; the location of Eden Homes; and Eden employment opportunities.

[www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov) is the website of the National Education Program which is a partnership of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 200 public and private organizations. It provides information about diabetes and pre-diabetes; resources for health, education and business professionals; and tips for starting a diabetes awareness campaign.

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## **ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING**

**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor**  
**Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director**

This semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help us spread the word about this free resource for aging to others in the aging network. If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to Writer/Editor **David Dekker** at [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov). Please include name, e-mail address, organization/agency and telephone number.

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov) or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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